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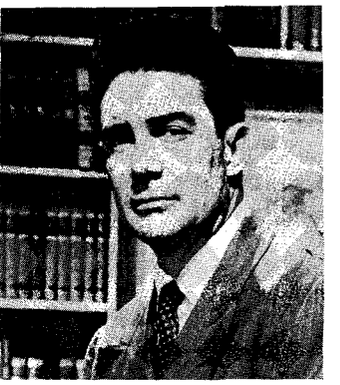

DAN SMOOT

COMPUTERS AND DICTATORS

"Do the people of this land . . . favored . . . above all others in the plenitude of liberties . . . desire to preserve those [liberties]? . . . If so, let them withstand all beginnings *of encroachment. For the saddest epitaph which can be carved in memory of a vanished liberty is that it was lost because its possessors failed to stretch forth a saving hand while yet there was time."* — Justice Sutherland, in a Supreme Court decision, 1937

On March 31, 1964, the Communist Party newspaper, *The Worker*, published and endorsed "The Manifesto of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Triple Revolution." The committee included such persons as Gunnar Myrdal (Swedish socialist) and Linus Pauling (whose named is linked with many organizations and activities said to be communist-controlled or communist-influenced). The manifesto says:

"We urge . . . that society, through its appropriate legal and governmental institutions, undertake an unqualified commitment to provide every individual and every family with an adequate income as a matter of right. . . .

"The unqualified right to an income would take the place of the patchwork of welfare measures."

On August 19, 1964, President Johnson signed a law creating the National Commission on Technology, Automation, and Economic Progress — to be composed of 14 Presidential appointees. Thomas J. Watson, Jr. (a member of the Council on Foreign Relations) and Walter Reuther (deeply involved in organizations connected with the Council on Foreign Relations[1]) are among those handpicked by Johnson. John T. Connor and William C. Foster (government officials who are members of the Council on Foreign Relations) are on the 10-member Interagency Advisory Committee which aids the National Commission on Technology. In February, 1966, the Commission published its first findings, a 115-page report, saying:

". . . we suggest that Congress give serious study to a 'minimum income allowance' or 'negative income tax' program. Such a program, if found feasible, should be designed to approach by stages the goal of eliminating the need for means to test public assistance programs by providing a floor of adequate minimum incomes. A minimum income allowance would complete the symmetry of our tax system, under which tax payments are related to income, family size, medical and other costs, by acknowledging the continuity beyond zero tax rates. . . ."[2]

THE DAN SMOOT REPORT is published weekly by The Dan Smoot Report, Inc., Box 9538, Dallas, Texas 75214 (office at 6441 Gaston Ave.). Subscriptions: $18.00 for 2 years; $10.00, 1 year; $6.00, 6 months; first class, $12.50 a year; airmail, $14.50. Dan Smoot was born in Missouri, reared in Texas. With BA and MA degrees from SMU (1938 and 1940), he joined the Harvard faculty (1941) as a Teaching Fellow, doing graduate work in American civilization. From 1942 to 1951, he was an FBI agent; from 1951 to 1955, a commentator on national radio and television. In 1955, he started his present independent, free-enterprise business: publishing this REPORT and abbreviating it each week for radio and TV broadcasts available for commercial sponsorship by business firms.

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In sum, the two documents — the Ad Hoc Committee's manifesto, published and praised by the Communist Party, and the report by President Johnson's commission — recommend the same thing: welfare-state dictatorship.

This is not the first time an agency of the federal government has made a study, at taxpayers' expense, which resulted in recommendations previously approved by the Communist Party. Now, however, we are closer than ever before to a condition enabling the planners-of-other-peoples'-lives to force their schemes upon the total population. Totalitarians are always willing to use force; but the techniques and technology for controlling people have been refined in recent years. Now, the most effective dictators are those who condition the people to accept — even yearn for — dictatorship.

In October, 1953, James Olds, psychologist at the University of Michigan, experimenting with a technique of implanting miniature electrodes in the brains of laboratory rats to control behavior, made an accidental discovery. Dr. Olds says:

"I went up to the lab one Sunday afternoon and took the first rat I had ever prepared with my own hands. Every time the rat walked into one corner of the testing table, I turned on the electricity to see if he would avoid approaching that spot thereafter. Instead, my rat *liked* it."[3]

Since Olds' discovery, scientists have found that electrical stimulation of pleasure centers in the brain gives laboratory animals more satisfaction than they get from fulfillment of natural, physical desires: they would rather receive a few milliamperes of electricity in the brain than to eat, drink, sleep, or copulate. Such electrical stimulation of the brain has been successfully used on human patients, to relieve anxieties, assuage mental anguish.[3]

On August 14, 1965, *Health Bulletin* quoted Dr. Joseph W. Goldzieher, a Texas physician, as saying that governments could control quantity and quality of populations by use of birth-control chemicals, made compulsory upon entire populations "just as salt is iodized or water is fluoridated."

On October 1, 1965, *Life* published an article about scientific advances in artificially managed human birth processes:

"If none of the technical obstacles turn out to be insurmountable, someone is going to bring forth an entirely grown-in-glass baby . . . . The ultimate will be the production of beings whose specifications can be drawn in advance. This could come about, scientists predict, through the manipulation of the genetic material itself. . . .

"Improved brain capacity is another innovation that appears possible . . . . Scientists . . . speculate that subject matter of any sort might . . . . be taught merely by injecting the subject with what could in effect be an artificial virus. . . ."[4]

Recently, Dr. James McConnell, professor of psychology at the University of Michigan, warned:

"I teach a course called The Psychology of Influence, and I begin it by stating categorically that the time has come when, if you give me any normal human being and a couple of weeks . . . I can change his behavior from what it is now to whatever you want it to be, if it's physically possible. I can't make him fly by flapping his wings, but I can turn him from a Christian into a Communist and vice versa. . . .

"Look, we can do these things. We can control behavior. Now, *who's going to decide what's to* be done? . . ."[3]

Today, most medical research is federally subsidized. What government subsidizes, it directs — subtly, perhaps, but inexorably, and always to promote the ideology or ambitions of those who control the purse strings. Lyndon Johnson would like the people conditioned to accept what he proposes. He has expressed impatience with "basic research" not productive of immediate, practical results.[5] He had in mind research into the causes of cancer and heart disease; but when will his impatience be turned toward basic research in the fields of brain-conditioning and population-control? When will he, or someone else in power, decree that scientists subsidized by government "get results" in these delicate areas?

Compulsory mass-medication through fluoridation of public water supplies, to promote what public officials allege to be the cause of better dental health for the people, is already accepted

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practice in many places. When will our water supplies be similarly treated with mind-control drugs, to promote mental health? Such drugs have already been developed.[6]

On August 25, 1965, President Johnson announced:

"I have just concluded a breakfast meeting with the Cabinet and with the heads of Federal agencies, and I am asking each of them to immediately begin to introduce a very new and very revolutionary system of planning and programming and budgeting throughout the vast Federal Government. . . .

"Under this new system each Cabinet and agency head will set up a very special staff of experts who . . . will define the goals of their department for the coming year. And once these goals are established this system will permit us to find the most effective and the least costly alternative to achieving American goals. . . .

"So this new system will identify our national goals with precision and . . . . enable us to fulfill the needs of all the American people with a minimum amount of waste."[7]

The President was talking about government by computers. Computers, operated by a "very special staff of experts" will decide what is the "finer life" for all Americans; will postulate the decisions as "national goals"; will determine what action is needed by Congress and executive agencies to achieve these goals; and will designate how much tax money is required.

This method of governing is discussed and endorsed in the October, 1966, issue of *Foreign Affairs* (pp. 125-134), official magazine of the Council on Foreign Relations:

"On October 12, 1965, the President directed the introduction of an integrated programming-planning-budgeting system (P.P.B.S.) in the executive branch, including the State Department. The system is a management method . . . [which] had marked success when introduced by Secretary McNamara in the Defense Department. . . . [where] there has been wide use of computer technology. . . .

"The key questions . . . are . . . . what do we want from our technology? . . . Who will make the initial and continuing decisions on the data to be fed into the informational system? How is [sic] the data to be weighted for analysis and summary conclusions? . . . Who should have access to the information. . .? Should there be a switching center which controls who gets what?"

Though decisions made by computers will be presented as deriving from infallible machines — beyond challenge by mere humans — the decisions will actually be predetermined by the "very special staff of experts" who feed "weighted" data into the machines.

This is government by computers: the people are ruled by machines which are manipulated by an elite of bureaucrats.

Science and scientific techniques are aiding dictatorship in other ways:

(1) The Bureau of the Budget has proposed a National Data Center. Federal departments and agencies would feed into a centralized computer information on individuals [8]— from income tax returns, social security data, medical reports, school and employment records, intimate personal histories. By pushing a button, someone could instantly get a cradle-to-grave dossier on any person in the country.

(2) Technology has produced fantastic gadgets which government agencies use to spy on citizens: listening and recording devices to monitor, from blocks away, every sound made in a person's home or office; a snooper-scope to watch a house at night and see what is going on; miniature broadcasting devices which can be hidden in a bedroom, car, private office.

(3) Our government uses scientific propaganda techniques to control the thinking of the people. For example, many American business firms operate "think factories" to condition the public for accepting government policies. Almost every corporation with large defense contracts maintains a staff of intellectuals who produce, for the federal government, scientific studies on education, social

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reform, human behavior, disarmament, foreign policy.[9]

Computer technology is a marvelous tool. It has helped to produce prosperity and to open new vistas of thought, hope, and adventure for human beings, at a time when government policies stultify thought and depress the economy. Government use of science to perform lawful, necessary functions increases efficiency, decreases cost.

But any government — especially under such liberal leadership as we have had for a generation — will use every available means to control and manipulate people under pretext of promoting the general welfare.

So much scientific knowledge and equipment are now available to government that Americans are in grave danger of becoming controlled puppets, *unless government is controlled.* Our Constitution provided adequate control; but when the Sixteenth (income tax) Amendment gave the federal government unlimited taxing power, all other limitations on government were seriously weakened, if not destroyed.

The remedy is to repeal the income tax amendment, thus making it impossible for federal bureaucrats to confiscate enough of our money to pay for our enslavement.

We should insist that all U. S. legislators support the Liberty Amendment which will repeal the income tax amendment, specify that treaties cannot override our Constitution, and prohibit the federal government from engaging in enterprises not authorized by the Constitution.

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FOOTNOTES

(1) *The Invisible Government*, by Dan Smoot, 250 pp. (clothback, $4.00; pocketsize, $1.00)

(2) "Technology *and the* American Economy," National Commission on Technology, Automation, and Economic Progress, 115 pp.

(3) "Mind Control Is Good [or] Bad," *Esquire*, May, 1966, pp. 106-9

(4) "Will Man Direct His Own Evolution?", by Albert Rosenfeld, *Life*, October 1, 1965, condensed and reprinted in *Reader's Digest*, January, 1966, pp. 37-42

(5) "Basic Research in Trouble," editorial, *The New York Times*, July 11, 1966, p. 28

(6) "Scientist Finds Drug To Alter Substances Controlling Emotions; Swede Suggests Chemical Could be Used in Mental Illness Or to Control Minds of Men," article, *Wall Street Journal*, 1960; see also "Fluoridation Problems," *The Dan Smoot Report*, December 7, 1964, pp. 385-92, 1 copy 25c, 6 for $1.00.

(7) Transcript of news conference, *The New York Times*, August 26, 1965, p. 14

(8) "Computer Plan for Personal 'Dossiers' in Santa Clara Stirs Fears of Invasion of Privacy," by Lawrence E. Davies, *The New York Times*, August 1, 1966, p. 12

(9) "Think Factories for Whom?", by Edith Kermit Roosevelt, *San Diego Union*, August 28, 1966

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